

MINUTES

Alaska Resource Advisory Council Meeting

Alaska State Office ~ Anchorage, AK

Feb. 8-9, 2005

Wednesday, February 8, 2005

Council members present:

Tom Crafford, Chair
Greg Beischer
Charlie Boddy
Phil Driver
Larry Taylor
Sandra Key
Suzanne McCarthy
Susan Olsen
David van den Berg
Evie Witten
Randy Frank
Teresa Imm
June McAtee
Jim Posey
Keith Tryck

BLM representatives present:

George Oviatt, Alaska State Office
Ramone McCoy, Glennallen Field Office
Gary Reimer, Anchorage Field Office
Susan Will, Northern Field Office
Scott Billing, Alaska Fire Service
Curt Wilson
Joe Kurtak
Susan Lavin
Callie Webber
Bruce Hollen
Ken Taylor
Bob Fisk
Bill Overbaugh

Teresa McPherson, outgoing RAC coordinator
Danielle Allen, incoming RAC coordinator
Wendy Longtin, recorder

Council members absent:

Jim Posey

**** Handouts mentioned in the minutes are available to the public upon request. Please contact RAC coordinator Danielle Allen, 907-271-3335 or danielle_allen@ak.blm.gov.***

Chair Tom Crafford called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The chair opened the meeting and asked council members and others present to introduce themselves.

State Director's Update

State Director Henri Bisson joined the meeting via teleconference from Phoenix to provide briefings on some of BLM-Alaska's major issues.

- **Alpine Satellite Record of Decision:** The Record of Decision (ROD) for Alpine was signed in Washington in October 2004. Bisson noted that permits for the first pads had been issued,

although some waterway issues still need to be resolved. He doesn't expect any environmental groups to challenge the decision. The company has started work on the pads outside of the petroleum reserve and will proceed with development.

- **Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska:** Bisson spoke to the Resource Development Council in Anchorage on Jan. 22 about BLM's 2005 energy issues. BLM released the Final Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement in late January. Bisson anticipates a lawsuit from environmental groups.
- **Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska:** Sec. Norton signed the Record of Decision on Northwest on Jan. 22, 2004, which prompted a lawsuit on behalf of several environmental groups. BLM hosted a lease sale in June on condition that no surface disturbance could occur until the judge's ruling. On Jan. 10, 2005, the judge ruled in favor of BLM on all counts and ruled that companies could go ahead. EarthJustice filed an appeal on that ruling to the 9th Circuit.
- **South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska:** BLM will begin scoping in about a month. The southern area is the remaining area of the petroleum reserve not covered in the previous plans and also includes the Colville River. Bisson predicted this will be the most controversial of the Petroleum Reserve plans because of a significant caribou calving area and resources that are not currently available for leasing.
- **National Petroleum Reserve Research and Monitoring Team (RAC subgroup):** Bisson asked the RAC to consider allowing the RMT to continue as a RAC subgroup until the end of the calendar year when the North Slope Science Initiative should be ready to absorb it. The NSSI is engaged in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) process so things are taking longer than expected. Newly appointed NSSI executive director Ken Taylor will brief the council on Wednesday.
- **Recreation RACs:** The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act was passed in the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill signed into law by President Bush in December 2004. For agencies to continue collecting recreation fees, Congress put in provisions for establishing Recreation RACs. BLM Washington Office has developed several options. Among them, BLM RACs could assume the recreational fee issues. Bisson expressed doubts about this option. Bill Overbaugh will brief the RAC tomorrow and share WO documentation. Bisson asked that the RAC create a workgroup to study the options and give him a recommendation by Feb. 20. Bisson favors an interagency Recreation RAC and said this new council wouldn't change how BLM RAC recreation issues are consulted.
- **Land and Resource Planning:** Bisson stressed the importance of the RAC's role in the planning process.

Bisson signed off.

Agenda Review/Approval

The council agreed to add Bill Overbaugh's presentation to tomorrow's schedule and with that change, approved the agenda.

Minutes Review/Approval

The council approved minutes of the Oct. 14-15, 2004, RAC meeting with changes to the Ring of Fire item on p. 12 from Charlie Boddy.

Field Manager Updates

Ramone McCoy, Glennallen Field Office Manager

- **East Alaska Resource Management Plan:** The plan is slightly behind schedule due to added briefings. The draft EIS is currently in review at the State Office. Hoping to send the draft to the printers by Feb. 28 and begin distribution on April 1 followed by a 90-day comment period. Final out before the end of FY05. McCoy noted that staff presented an EARMP briefing to the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance, at the group's request, in Anchorage a couple of weeks ago. About 230 people attended.
- **Heli-Mushing Permit:** ERA Aviation has requested a heli-mushing permit (first of its kind for BLM) for an operation on BLM managed lands east of Denali National Park. The operation would be based out of Healy and take tourists by helicopter to the Nenana Glacier for dog sled mushing. There will be a public meeting in Cantwell on Feb. 17. The council expressed concerns regarding how BLM could control flight paths and how the air traffic could be a disturbance. McCoy said the BLM could add stipulations to the permit regarding how ERA gets to BLM-managed lands. If that issue comes up in public comment it could be added to the plan. McCoy encouraged council members to submit written comments so they could become part of the record. Denton Hamby at GFO is the lead for this issue.
- **Federal subsistence hunting:** An inseason change allowed cow hunting. So far, 47 cows and 167 bulls have been taken. Generally, 300-400 animals are taken during the season. Each hunter with a valid state hunting license can take 2 caribou and 1 moose.
- **MOUs with Native Villages:** So far, BLM has signed Memorandums of Understanding with Tazlina, Chistochina, and Chickaloon, and is in discussions with Eyak, Gulkana and Chitina. Signing these MOUs is part of the land use planning process and staff is collecting Native cultural sites data.
- **Tangle Lakes/Denali Highway Displays:** When the RAC visited the Tangle Lakes/Denali Highway, some council members suggested more interpretive displays. GFO has initiated displays for area lodge owners so tourists can learn about the archaeological significance of the Tangle Lakes area. GFO is currently working with the State DOT on a display at mile 7 of the Denali Highway.

Gary Reimer, Anchorage Field Office Manager (Acting)

- **Iditarod Trails Coordinator:** Kevin Keeler was hired as full-time Iditarod trails coordinator.
- **CCSC Funding:** Campbell Creek Science Center has had a long-term goal to work toward financial self sufficiency. CCSC programs are now heavily subsidized by BLM-Alaska. AFO is investigating self-sufficient funding sources. Jeff Brune, CCSC manager, is nurturing a nonprofit friends group that could raise funds for the center. Also, AFO is working through the BLM budget system to have the CCSC compete for additional funding based on the strength and merit of its programs so the center will be less in need of overhead money drawn from other BLM Alaska programs.

- **Land Planning:** The Ring of Fire plan is on track. Expect a draft EIS at the end of March. The Bay plan is in scoping. Staff has visited Bristol Bay and government-to-government relations are going well. Six villages have requested visits and plan briefings.
- **Winter Trails Day:** Reimer invited everyone to Winter Trails Day on Saturday at CCSC.

Susan Will, Northern Field Office Manager (Acting)

- **National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska:** Since Bisson updated the council earlier on the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Will had nothing to add unless the council had questions. There is a handout on South in the NFO briefings. Research and Monitoring Team update is included in the NFO handout.
- **J.W. Dalton Reserve Pit Cleanup:** The biggest issue NFO is working on right now is the J.W. Dalton reserve pit cleanup. The well was drilled in 1979 as part of USGS exploration on the North Slope. When BLM took over management of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, it inherited responsibility for this and other legacy wells. Erosion has exposed the reserve pit at the J.W. Dalton site. There's \$1 million set aside for plugging the well, but no funding yet for cleaning up the reserve pit. The plan at this time is to get the reserve pit contents to Point Lonely DEW Line Site before breakup. BLM is under a tight timeline as the operation should be completed by mid-May. Weather has hampered some efforts to get to the well site. Will noted that there is erosion at other legacy well sites, but the J.W. Dalton situation is the most pressing. Bisson is working to secure funding for the cleanup from the Washington Office. Estimated cost for cleanup is \$8 million.
- **2004 Fire Season:** Tomorrow, council member Keith Tryck will give a summary of BLM's meeting with the Fortymile Miners Association regarding the 2004 fire season. NFO is starting preliminary work with AFS for the 2005 season.
- **Dalton Highway OHV Legislation:** Sen. Seekins reintroduced legislation to lift OHV restrictions on the Dalton Highway corridor. Will noted that BLM already has a land use plan decision that is similar to Seekins' proposal. However, in order to address a plan specific to OHV use, BLM would have to address subsistence, which is a major concern of area residents opposed to Seekins' proposal.

10:20 a.m. BREAK

Reconvene at 10:30 a.m.

Resource Management Planning 101

Curt Wilson, supervisory planner, Branch of Resources & Planning

- The National Environmental Policy Act (1969) requires that with a proposed action for land, an agency must also find alternatives and describe the pros/cons of each; consider economical, biological and social impacts; include public involvement in at least three steps.
- BLM had been operating without an organic act until the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, which required land use plans. By the mid-80s, BLM realized that every land use plan required NEPA. Prior to this, management plans were very vague. Some didn't even include maps of the area. NEPA established firm consistent guidance on land use planning.

- While Congress awaits a committee report of how to handle withdrawn lands in land use planning areas, planners are moving forward. Foresee amending plans. (BLM lead for withdrawn lands report to Congress: Susan Lavin)
- As a multiple-use agency, BLM plans deal with issues such as land use allocation, what areas can be opened for oil and gas development or mining, possible Wild and Scenic River designations, cultural values, etc. We have to figure out how to give the public an opportunity to use the land, yet still protect the land.
- Wilson stressed that the public comment process is not a popularity vote.

Tom Crafford asked Wilson to return for RMP subcommittee meeting on Wednesday morning.

Wildland Fire Management Policy

Scott Billing, manager, Alaska Fire Service

- In the fall, AFS participated in meetings in 13 communities. Also met with Fortymile miners in Fairbanks. AFS was also represented at the BIA providers conference to address the Native community.
- Currently, AFS is developing an action plan incorporating recommendations. Billing will have an update at the April RAC meeting.
- The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team will reconvene this spring, possibly late May or early June, to conclude their work and amend the report as necessary. Their report is posted at <http://www.ak.blm.gov/baer/plan>. Jeanne Standley is co-lead at the State Office. Council members can expect an update at the April meeting.
- The Fairbanks North Star Borough commissioned a three-member review team to generate a report and recommendations regarding the 2004 wildfire season. Expect the report to be completed by the end of March.

Billing recommended that the RAC stay involved with the land use planning efforts and ensure that fire management is addressed in the planning stages. Billing told the council he was available in the evening to further discuss fire management issues.

The council agreed that fire management is an important area for the RAC to be involved and they would incorporate Billing's recommendations into the workplan revisions for 2005.

Break for LUNCH at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting resumed with public comment at 1:05 pm.

Todd Clark, Alaska Outdoor Alliance (AOAA)

Clark passed out a letter addressed to the RAC.

- At the AOAA-sponsored meeting regarding EARMP, the Glennallen Field Office briefed 233 people. AOAA recognizes the need for good stewardship. Clark stated that OHV users are suspicious, nervous when there's talk about closing or changing access.
- AOAA is concerned that there's a lack of OHV representation in the planning process.

Susan Olsen suggested that the interested OHV reps submit nominations for the RAC in March. Keith Tryck added that it was refreshing to see a representative from OHV users at the meeting.

Clark's name will be added to the call for nominations list to be sent out in March.

Amalie Couvillion, The Nature Conservancy

Couvillion, TNC's conservation science director, is project manager for the Alaska-Yukon Arctic Ecoregional Assessment. She handed out a summary of the project.

- The goal of the Alaska-Yukon Arctic Ecoregional Assessment project is to examine patterns of wildlife diversity to identify critical areas of ecological conservation so we can determine ways of development that are compatible with needs of wildlife and needs of people. Look at the Nature Conservancy as a portfolio manager for conservation investments balanced with development.
- Sandra Key asked where the Nature Conservancy's project would fit into the BLM land use planning process. Couvillion explained that the information collected could be considered during land use planning. TNC has assembled a large database of Arctic wildlife information. During land planning, the database would help to consider wildlife information in context. For instance, if there are only two yellow-billed loons in an area, no extreme conservation efforts may be necessary. However, it would be helpful to know of a large flock 50 miles from the planning area.
- TNC is pursuing a NASA grant to expand on the information database. Also, interacting with the North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) and the North Slope Borough.
- Project began in 2001 and scheduled for completion March 2005 and could continue contingent on additional funding.
- Data will be available to all interested parties.

Keith Tryck suggested Couvillion return at a later date for an in-depth presentation and perhaps invite industry reps to sit in. The RAC will consider Couvillion's return for a future meeting.

David Ausman, Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska (PWCA), AOAA member

- The group wants to ensure that PWCA interests are represented in the land use planning process. In the past, the group has felt discriminated against and has been excluded from places where other boats have been allowed (ie, Kachemak Bay).
- Ausman was interested in the land use planning process and stressed the importance that decisions need to be scientifically based and scientifically defensible.

Keith Tryck commented that the RAC appreciated Ausman's presence and interest. Ausman's name will be added to the call for nominations list to be sent out in March.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mineral Assessment in South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

Joe Kurtak, geologist, Branch of Solid Minerals

Kurtak presented a slideshow for the RAC on mineral assessment in the South planning area, which is 40% of the entire National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

- While oil and gas potential was considered high in the first two planning areas BLM examined in the Petroleum Reserve, their potential is lower in the South plan area, though the potential for hard rock mineral commodities, such as lead, zinc, silver, and coal, is considerable.
- The South plan will probably be the most controversial.
- Hard rock and coal mining are prohibited in the Petroleum Reserve by law, so BLM will not make decisions in the plan to open the area for mining. However, after studying the mining potential and the surface resources that might be impacted by mining and after listening to public and agency ideas, BLM may recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that she consider approaching Congress to change the law to allow future mining.
- In January, agency specialists met to brainstorm how to use the \$950,000 in funding. Possibilities include airborne geophysics (minimal impact) and revising economic studies.
- Timeline: Scoping in March, possible airborne geophysical survey in summer 2005, follow up with field effort in summer 2006, draft EIS in February 2007, final EIS/ROD by February 2008.

Kurtak advised that the RAC, representing a diversity of shareholders, give suggestions to the BLM on how to handle the South planning efforts.

Sandra Key noted that the funding seemed like a considerable amount of taxpayers resources and wondered whether there would be an equal amount of funding to consider why not to lift the closure? George Oviatt of the State Office assured that exploring both sides of the issue will be part of process, and suggested that at a future RAC meeting BLM could have a wildlife biologist present the other side.

Teresa Imm submitted the following paragraphs via email to be included in the official minutes:

“The RAC's liaisons to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska South plan (Teresa Imm, Phil Driver, David van den Berg) feel the need for closer involvement with BLM planners. BLM stated during its RAC presentation that the South plan will be the most controversial Petroleum Reserve plan undertaken; it is because of this concern expressed by BLM that the liaison's role be improved and increased under this IAP to better advise the BLM with respect to this land use plan. BLM has a strong emphasis on the mineral resource potential of the south area, which has created concern and uncertainty with the RAC as to the intent of the IAP. We believe that closer involvement with BLM staff on the South plan will ease our concerns.

“To that end, we ask that State Director Henri Bisson and Northern Field Office manager Bob Schneider make the planning team leads aware of the RAC's Workplan, especially the action item pertaining to RMPs and the liaison concept. We also ask that the planning leads are given our contact information, and the green light to reach out to us at every possible turn in the process. Finally, we ask written confirmation that these two actions have occurred.”

2:35 p.m. BREAK
Reconvene at 2:55 p.m.

Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act: “d-1” Report to Congress (Sec. 207)
Susan Lavin, Realty Specialist, Branch of Lands & Realty

Lavin introduced David Mushovic, Project Manager, and Carolyn Spoon, Branch Chief, and handed out a briefing document and actual wording from Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act that was signed into law on Dec. 10, 2004.

- To expedite the opening of d-1 Public Land Orders (PLO-1970s) lands, proposed language in Section 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act would have given the Secretary the authority to open lands without environmental review. However, the negotiated version that was signed into law requires the Secretary to complete a report to Congress by June 2006 which will identify withdrawn lands that can be open. The report requires public involvement opportunities. Action resulting from the report will be up to Congress.
- To fulfill the public involvement requirement, Lavin said the report team will produce informational packets with maps for distribution, create a web page, send out news releases and perform other outreach. Each member of the RAC will receive a copy of the informational packets this summer.

Recordable Disclaimers of Interest
Callie Webber, realty specialist, Branch of Lands & Realty

- Current RDI status: 5 pending applications in review stages, anticipate Porcupine decision this month, Tazlina decision by May, Wood River & Lakes System will begin an extended public comment period this spring, Salcha & Kasilof public comment period initiated at the end of March.
- Webber brought in a color coded Alaska map to show State’s proposed RDI applications and waterbodies for which the RDI application process has been completed or is on file.
- The BLM and State continue to work together to use the RDI process where appropriate.

Yellow-billed loon Endangered Species Act determination
Bruce Hollen, wildlife biologist, Division of Energy & Solid Minerals

- An interagency team of specialists met at the end of January to discuss the yellow-billed loon and begin the structured decision making process that assists in ESA listing decisions. The BLM’s purpose is to address uncertainty of National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska development impacts.
- The truth is, very little is known about yellow-billed loons, and even less is known about human interaction with them. They are extremely rare, nesting in Canada, arctic Russia and Alaska. Not sure whether anything is impacting its population or if it’s just a very rare bird.
- About 3,000 yellow-billed loons use northern Alaska as breeding grounds; about 90% of that population is active in the Petroleum Reserve.

Susan Olsen wondered what impacts the team's findings will have since the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska ROD is due to be signed relatively soon. Oviatt said that any information learned could be included into the ROD.

Meeting recessed at 4 p.m. after chair Tom Crafford passed out copies of the 2005 workplan so members could review for tomorrow's discussion.

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Chair Tom Crafford called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

The RAC thanked outgoing RAC coordinator Teresa McPherson for all her hard work.

Council members not present:

Evie Witten

North Slope Science Initiative

Ken Taylor, NSSI Executive Director

Taylor noted that John Payne of the Resources Section has previously briefed the council on NSSI.

- The NSSI developed through State, local and federal concerns to identify development issues on the North Slope.
- Started in late 2003 and in May 2004 an oversight group (State Director Henri Bisson is the chair this year) was formally established.
- Currently, the NSSI is trying to establish a science and technical group (FACA committee, broaden membership base to include industry and other professions). The charter is under Washington review. All members agree that there's duplicating efforts among agencies with interests in the North Slope, so the major goal is to create a plan for collaboration.
- NSSI will eventually replace the RAC's Research and Monitoring Team (RMT) subcommittee, so the group will also be considering how to fold the RMT's efforts into the NSSI.

David van den Berg made a request to see upcoming agendas from NSSI in the next RAC meeting's information packet. Taylor mentioned that he could share a list of NSSI contact people with the RAC.

Chair Tom Crafford suggested the RMT/NSSI issue continue as an action item (replacing the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Activities item).

Proposed Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline

Bob Fisk, senior technical specialist, Division of Energy & Solid Minerals

Fisk gave a PowerPoint briefing on the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline as proposed by producers. Two other proposals are also on the table: TransCanada and TAGS.

- In anticipation of an application for building the pipeline, DOI's business plan will outline how each agency will operate. Each agency will have their own business plan and then an MOU will spell out collaboration.
- \$19 billion-20 billion project
- Requires 6 million tons of steel. Possible builders in Korea, Japan and Germany. Est. 2 years just to build pipeline.
- Most of pipeline will be underground (Yukon, Tanana river crossings above ground)
- Life expectancy of pipeline? 40-50 yrs.
- Lots of equipment goes with the project, therefore there needs to be infrastructure upgrades which are included in the \$20 billion estimate. (Governor supports)
- Currently a privately funded pipeline (\$18 billion loan from DOE)
- Legislation created Office of Federal Coordinator to ensure efficient permitting and agency interaction.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will start accelerated NEPA process; BLM will handle ROWs.
- 11 years before gas actually starts flowing.

9:45 a.m. BREAK

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)

Bill Overbaugh, outdoor recreation planner, Branch of Resources and Planning

- FLREA will establish a multi-agency national recreation pass, establish an advisory council to address recreational fees on federal lands, and help to ensure that the majority of recreation fees are reinvested at the collection site.
- For BLM Alaska, there is little affect on fee programs.
- The Alaska RAC will form a workgroup to give Bisson recommendations on the drafted Rec RAC options by Feb. 20.

Susan Olsen, Suzanne McCarthy and Tom Crafford volunteered to form a workgroup to review the options and get a recommendation to Bisson by Feb. 20.

RAC Workgroup Reports

OHV (Susan Olsen)

Olsen had nothing new to report. She appreciated the correspondence from Tom Crafford and Henri Bisson regarding the East Alaska RMP space for non-motorized recreation and noted the resolution's request for funds for enforcement. GFO Manager Ramone McCoy stated that the

final budget is still being worked out, but she hopes to have FY06 finalized in May. Olsen recommended that funds be set aside for enforcement.

Fire management planning/Fortymile meeting (Keith Tryck)

Tryck said the meeting between the BLM and the Fortymile miners regarding the 2004 fire season and management policy was positive. All parties were amenable to presenting honest concerns and feelings and BLM was quick to acknowledge that there were some mistakes made regarding fire management. Tryck said that those two factors lend itself to the beginning of resolution. Communication was the biggest inefficiency noted. Council members Randy Frank and Larry Taylor met with AFS Manager Scott Billing last night and encourage council members to keep working with the agency and providing feedback.

Tryck volunteered to lead a workgroup for a fire management planning report at the RAC's April meeting. Randy Frank and Larry Taylor volunteered to join the workgroup. Sandra Key requested that the group also consider invasive plants issues and other restoration issues.

RAC 2005 work plan (Tom Crafford)

Crafford asked the council to review and edit the work plan and he will email the final version to all RAC members. Council members stressed the importance of RAC workgroups getting involved in the land use planning efforts. Danielle Allen will send BLM's lead planners the RAC workgroups' contact information.

The RAC reviewed and edited topics and workgroup assignments (lead in **bold** type) pertaining to:

Action Items

- Outdated Federal Land Segregations & Section 207 report (**Greg Beischer**, Sandra Key, June McAtee, Tom Crafford, Susan Olsen, Randy Frank, Keith Tryck)
- OHV use (**Susan Olsen**, Suzanne McCarthy, Keith Tryck, Larry Taylor, Phil Driver)
- RAC representation in land use planning
 - East Alaska – Glennallen Field Office (**Susan Olsen**, Suzanne McCarthy, Sandra Key)
 - Ring of Fire – Anchorage Field Office (**Charlie Boddy**, Sandra Key, Jim Posey)
 - White Mountains National Recreation Area (**David van den Berg**, Susan Olsen, Charlie Boddy)
 - South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska – Northern Field Office/Alaska State Office (**Teresa Imm**, **David van den Berg**, **Phil Driver**, Sandra Key, Tom Crafford, Susan Olsen)
 - Kobuk-Seward – Northern Field Office (**Teresa Imm**, Tom Crafford, Phil Driver)
 - The Bay – Anchorage Field Office (**June McAtee**, Evie Witten/Sandra Key¹, Greg Beischer²) ¹Witten was not present at meeting, if she declines appointment, Key has agreed to serve. ²Because of Beischer's work association with Bristol Bay Native Corp., he may have to recuse himself from voting should a resolution arise.
- RMT/NSSI (**Sandra Key**, Teresa Imm, Phil Driver)

- Susan Olsen moved to extend the RAC's sponsorship of the RMT to the end of this calendar year. Council voted unanimously in favor. The council agreed that once the NSSI is fully functional, the RMT will move to an information item.
- Wildland fire management (**Keith Tryck**, Randy Frank, Larry Taylor)

Information Items

- ANCSA 17(b) easements
 - George Oviatt suggested that the council receive another report regarding this topic and how it meshes with other activities.
- Land conveyance process
- Proposed gas pipeline
- Rural energy program & unconventional oil and gas
- Fee schedule review
 - The council agreed to amend language in light of the Recreation RAC issue.
- Invasive weeds & species management
 - Sandra Key said she could arrange for a presentation by an interagency invasive plants group for a future meeting.

April Meeting & Field Trip in Glennallen – Logistics

Glennallen Field Office Manager Ramone McCarthy and Marnie Graham briefed the council on potential itineraries for the RAC's April meeting in Glennallen. Incoming RAC coordinator Danielle Allen and Graham will work out details and get itineraries and logistical information to the council.

Election of Officers

RAC officers up for election include the chair and vice chair. The current chair opened the floor for nominations. Charlie Boddy moved that Tom Crafford be nominated for another term as chair. Members voted unanimously for and Crafford accepted another term as the RAC's chair. Charlie Boddy nominated Suzanne McCarthy as vice chair. Susan Olsen nominated Sandra Key as vice chair. McCarthy declined the nomination unless Key was unwilling to accept the position. Members voted unanimously for and Key accepted the vice chair position.

Adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

This document is a fair and accurate summation of the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council meeting of February 8-9, 2005.

/s/
Tom Crafford, RAC Chair

April 7, 2005
Date